

# Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Wired and Wireless LAN Infrastructure

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Automation, security and migration strategies are the primary drivers for infrastructure strategies as the market continues to move away from hardware. I&O leaders must use this research to deliver wired and wireless infrastructure to their campus, branch and remote-office environments.

## Strategic Planning Assumptions

Through at least 2026, over 70% of wireless local-area network (WLAN) deployments will lack a tangible use case for organizations to deploy Wi-Fi 7, as most business applications do not require the enhanced capabilities of the new standard.

By 2027, 70% of enterprises refreshing and/or expanding their WLAN will upgrade to Wi-Fi 7, due to future proofing aspirations and vendor push combined with aggressive product marketing.

## Market Definition/Description

Gartner defines the enterprise wired and wireless LAN infrastructure market as wired and wireless networking hardware and the related network software. Related components of the solution include enterprise switches, access points and the requisite tools to secure, manage, test and optimize the network infrastructure that provides connectivity for users, devices and applications that may reside on the network or on other networks.

Enterprises in all vertical markets use enterprise wired and wireless networks to connect and transport data for fixed and end-user devices to applications that may be local or remote to the physical end user. In addition to physical connectivity, these solutions provide the following capabilities in diverse markets, including the ability to:

- Discover, identify, secure, manage and segment Internet of Things (IoT)/operational technology (OT) devices
- Support, test and maintain network infrastructure components
- Provide a resilience infrastructure
- Secure the network infrastructure
- Provide scalability and flexibility for management and control plane communication processes
- Provide no-touch/low-touch Day 2 environment

The must-have capabilities of this market include:

- IEEE 802.11 Wi-Fi-certified access points that support 2.4GHz, 5GHz and 6GHz.
- Ethernet network switches suitable for deployment at the network access, distribution and core network layers.
- Wi-Fi process control and management plane functionality placed on a physical appliance, virtual machine, which can be located at the edge, in the data center or cloud-based.